

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /078 W

-----181157Z 106679 /14

P R 181134Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6613

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB UR GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: ABRASIMOV REMARKS ON STATUS OF BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 738; (B) BERLIN 5506

1. THE FRENCH BONN GROUP REP (BOISSIEU) INFORMED US ON MARCH 17 THAT -- TO THE CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY -- PARIS HAD SUGGESTED THE ISSUANCE OF AN ALLIED COMMUNIQUE REBUTTING THE REMARKS MADE BY ABRASIMOV IN HIS MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING THE STATUS OF BERLIN AND ALLIED RIGHTS.

2. BOISSIEU ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF SUCH A COMMUNIQUE. OUR THINKING, WE EXPLAINED, WAS THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN PARALLELISM IN ALLIED AND SOVIET ACTIONS THUS FAR. ON JANUARY 6 THE ALLIED EMBASSIES HAD ISSUED

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A PRESS STATEMENT CONTAINING OUR VIEWS ON THE RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GDR, AND WE HAD FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW ON JANUARY 11. ON MARCH 10 THE SOVIETS HAD RESPONDED IN KIND, WITH THE NOTES DELIVERED PRIVATELY IN MOSCOW AND ABRASIMOV'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE FROM THE ALLIED SIDE COULD, IN OUR VIEW, ONLY SHARPEN THE

POLEMICS. WE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMBASSADOR PLANNED TO USE THE OCCASION OF HIS MARCH 18 SPEECH IN BERLIN TO REITERATE OUR POSITION AND THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A PREFERABLE AND LESS POLEMICAL WAY OF ANSWERING ABRASIMOV.

3. BOISSIEU SAID THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY ABSOLUTELY AGREED AND WOULD RECOMMEND TO PARIS THAT THE IDEA OF A FORMAL TRIPARTIRE COMMUNIQUE BE DROPPED. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR EACH OF THE THREE AMBASSADORS TO TAKE WHATEVER OPPORTUNITY AROSE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS PUBLICLY.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HIS RETIREMENT AT THE END OF MAY HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED AND HE IS MAKING FAREWELL CALLS IN SAARBRUECKEN TODAY. THE SAARBRUECKER ZEITUNG -- NOTED FOR ITS RECENT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH HONECKER -- IS INTERVIEWING WORMSER AND HAS SUBMITTED QUESTIONS SPECIFICALLY ON THE ABRASIMOV PRESS CONFERENCE AND WORMSER'S LUNCHEON WITH ABRASIMOV ON MARCH 11. WORMSER INTENDS TO GIVE A DETAILED REPLY ON THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE STATUS OF BERLIN AND ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

5. WE ARE REPORTING PRELIMINARY BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE LARGER PROBLEM OF HOW TO REACT TO THE MARCH 10 SOVIET NOTES BY SEPTEL. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATUS OF BERLIN, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN04845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770093-0413
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770347/aaaabome.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8214eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USBERLIN 738, 77 BERLIN 5506
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3071040
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABRASIMOV REMARKS ON STATUS OF BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR, GE, US, UK, FR, (ABRASIMOV, PYOTR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8214eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009